

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the example shown in Figures 1 to 3, the retractable clamping means are formed by two tabs 5, that comprise a locking means for preventing the syringe body from moving relative to the sheath or tube 1, that are substantially diametrically opposite and that are partially cut out from the wall of the tube 1 where it defines the second housing 4. The tabs 5 are terminated by retractable catches 6 for holding the flange CL of the syringe body pressed against the seat 4E. It will be observed that the tabs 5 are folded so as to extend substantially in a diametral longitudinal plane of the tube. In a variant, the retractable clamping means could comprise a single tab 5 only.

C Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:3

The body K of the syringe is urged resiliently towards its protection position by a resilient return means, such as a thrust spring R placed in the first housing 3. This spring R bears firstly against an internal shoulder 3E defining the first internal housing 3, and secondly against the flange CL of the body K of the syringe. The internal bearing shoulder 3E is disposed between the bearing seat 4E for the flange CL and the distal end of the tube 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C2 In the example shown in Figures 1 to 3, the means (release means) for releasing the locking means comprise a cylindrical cap 8, preferably made of plastics material, mounted to slide axially in the second housing 4 of the tube 1 between a high, ready position as shown in Figure 1 and a position for retracting the catches 6, as shown in Figure 2. The plunger P passes through the cap 8 and extends via a hole 9 formed in the proximal end of the cap 8.

C1 Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The cap 8 also has snap-fastening means comprising internal catches 10 that are spaced apart by 90°, and also has an external ring 11 that is integrally molded with the distal end of the cap.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Depending on the type of syringe in particular, it is preferable for the tube 1 and the cap 8 to have complementary means for preventing relative rotation between them. By way of example, these complementary means for preventing rotation between the sheath or tube 1 and the cap 8 can comprise at least one longitudinal groove 13 formed in the cap 8 receiving a corresponding finger 13A that radially extends the internal ring 7 of the second housing 4.

The cap preferably has two diametrically opposite grooves 13 as shown in Figures 1 to 3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the example shown in Figures 1 to 3, the external retention means of the tube 1 comprise a shoulder 1E formed in the outside surface of the tube 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this case, the tube 1 does not have the second internal housing of the first embodiment. Furthermore, the external retention means of the tube 1 are constituted by two diametrically opposite fins or lugs 15 extending substantially transversely to the axis of the tube and extended in the longitudinal direction (parallel to the axis of the tube 1) by two tabs 16 themselves terminated by oppositely-directed catches 17, 18. The lugs 15 are preferably integrally molded with the tube 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Two retention fins 35, 36 analogous to the lugs 15 of the second embodiment are integrally molded with the proximal end of the tube 1 and are disposed at 180° to each other. The tube 1 is shown separated from the assembly E in Figure 11. The cap 8 (see in particular Figures 12 and 13) is provided in this case with two substantially diametrically opposite longitudinally-extending tongues 38 and 39 which extend its distal end. The proximal end of the cap 8 is pierced by a hole 40. The cap 8 also has complementary means for preventing relative rotation between the sheath or tube 1 and the cap 8 comprising two vertical longitudinal slots 41 and 42 that are offset by 90° from the tongues 38, 39.